
Cummings, Matt

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 10:27 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAPX2020 Comments from City of Pine Island
Attachments: FED Review Comment Letter _07-09.doc; FUTURE LAND USE.pdf; Resolution09-003_CAPX2020_Jan09.jpg

FYI

From: Pine Island EDA [mailto:pieda@pitel.net]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 10:02 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAPX2020 Comments from City of Pine Island

August 10, 2009

Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1571
(202) 720-0468

Stephanie,

Thank you for responding to my inquiry concerning public comments from the City of Pine Island; we appreciate the fact that you will still accept this information from our community. The City Council, City Staff, and the EDA Board have since had the opportunity to review and approve the attached letter being submitted for public comment as part of the Federal Review Process. In addition to the letter, a .pdf file of the City's Future Land Use Planning Map and a Resolution passed by the City Council in January '09 are attached for clarification. The resolution requested that the CAPX2020 staff strongly consider using a route that follows US Highway 52 in order to avoid future residential and neighborhood commercial areas. I will also submit this information in hard copy via regular mail.

If you have any questions regarding the attached comments or supplemental information, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of the Review Process.

Sincerely,

Karen Doll
Pine Island EDA Director
106 2nd St SW, PO Box 727
Pine Island, MN 55963
Ph: (507) 356-8103

L-011-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-011-001

Cell: (507) 273-7623

August 4, 2009

Please submit comments as soon as possible. We are still preparing the scoping report and will incorporate comments received prior to completion.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Strength

Environmental Protection Specialist/RD

1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244

Washington, DC 20250-1571

(202) 720-0468

From: Pine Island EDA [mailto:pieda@pitel.net]

Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 3:01 PM

To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC

Subject: Public Comments

Stephanie,

I believe we met in Wanamingo a few weeks ago; I am the EDA Director for the City of Pine Island. The City intended to submit comments concerning the CAPX2020 Project after the last public scoping meeting in Wanamingo, MN, but I saw today on the CAPX2020 website that the date for public comment was only extended until July 25th. That date did not allow time for our EDA Board and the City Council to meet and formally take action on comments we have prepared. Is it too late or is still possible to submit comments for the Federal Review Process? Please advise.

Thank you,

Karen Doll

Pine Island EDA Director

106 2nd St SW, PO Box 727

Pine Island, MN 55963

Ph: (507) 356-8103

Cell: (507) 273-7623



City of Pine Island

250 South Main Street
P.O. Box 1000 • Pine Island, Minnesota 55963
Telephone 507-356-4591
Fax 507-356-8230

August 7, 2009

Stephanie A. Strength
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Ave SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recent CAPX 2020 project for the Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse Minnesota 345 KV Transmission Project. We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the Federal Review Process resulting from the recent Scoping meetings in our region.

The City of Pine Island and the Pine Island Economic Development authority are supportive of the CAPX2020 project and the need for additional capacity to transmit power to our region. We are pleased that future energy needs for this area are being planned now in order to assure a consistent supply for years to come. We are writing to this letter to express two general comments/concerns about the proposed routes in and around the Pine Island area.

L-011-002

- 1) We understand there are two 345 kV routes currently under consideration that would head east between Pine Island and Zumbrota. The City prefers that the transmission route remain as far north as possible due to future land use plans adopted by the City in a 2005 Comprehensive Plan which projects residential development in the area immediately north of Pine Island. (Please refer to the City's attached land use map.) The northern route that is proposed would create less conflict with future residential development because it would be located in a less densely populated area.

L-011-003

- 2) We also understand there are two proposed routes for a 161 kV transmission line traveling south through Pine Island via the west or east sides of the City. We believe the eastern route would provide the best option for our community because it utilizes Highway 52 which currently serves as a major commercial corridor in the area and because it would have the least impact on future residential development.

Thank you for taking these comments/recommendations under review. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this information into the review process.

Sincerely,

Pine Island EDA Executive Director

Enclosures

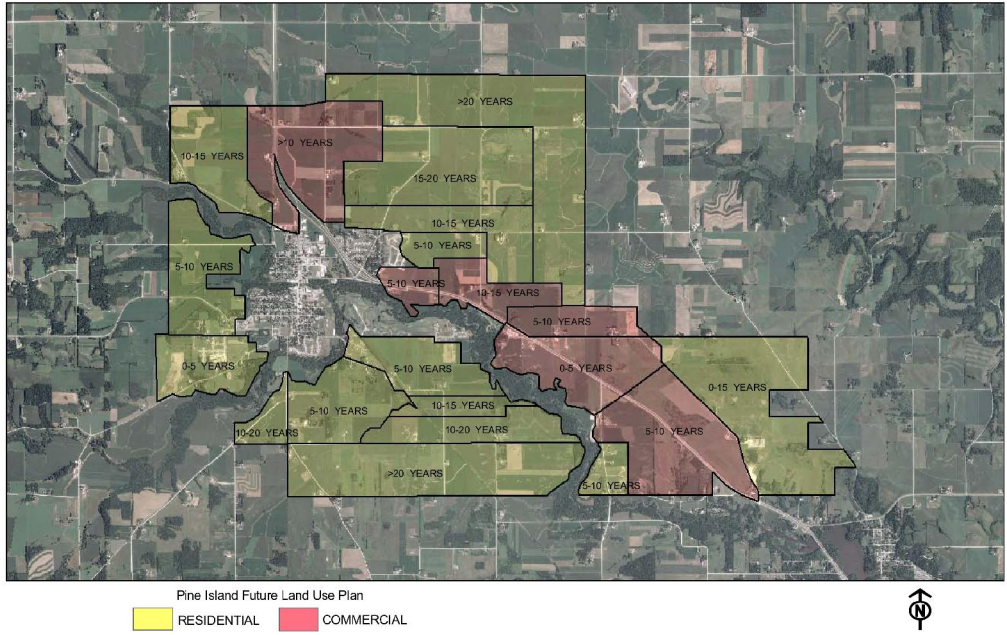
cc Abraham Algadi, City Administrator

L-011-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

L-011-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.



City of Pine Island
250 S. Main Street
Resolution No. 09-003

Being a resolution to provide recommendation to CAPX2020 for routing of planned high voltage power lines within the Pine Island area.

Whereas; The City of Pine Island recognizes the need for a reliable power supply to help promote an orderly future growth; and

Whereas; The City of Pine Island would like to work with CAPX2020 project staff to guide the route selection process and coordinate the placement of such routes with existing and future land uses within and around Pine Island, and

Whereas; The City Council also recognizes the need for multiple routes to be selected through the Pine Island area originating from the planned sub-station in the area between Pine Island and Zumbrota, and

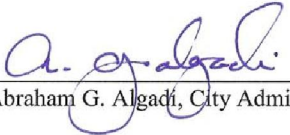
Whereas; The City of Pine Island official Pine Island Comprehensive plan and future land use map identified existing and future urbanizing areas in and around the City, and

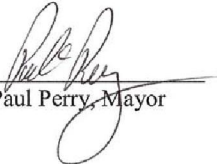
Whereas; The adopted land use plan could provide important information about the Pine Island area future growth and land use types/pattern, and

Whereas; A copy of the adopted plan is included in attached Exhibit "A", and

L-011-004 Therefore; be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Pine Island, that CAPX2020 staff and project manager(s) strongly consider routing the proposed (routes) in manner that follows U.S. Highway right of Way, and away from future residential and neighborhood commercial areas.

Adopted this 20th day of January 2009


Abraham G. Algadi, City Administrator


Paul Perry, Mayor

L-011-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

8/6/2009